IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A speech dialogue system (1) comprising:

a speech understanding unit (4) in which, for identifying a meaningful word sub-sequence from a recognition result produced by a speech recognition unit (3) which result was determined for a word sequence fed to the speech dialogue system (1), the word sub-sequence is evaluated by each of a plurality of different speech models (8), wherein selected ones of the plurality of speech models being provided with information (9) specifically related to the corresponding speech model.

2. (Previously presented) The speech dialogue system as claimed in claim 1, wherein a general speech model (LM-0) and at least one theme-specific speech model (LM-1, ..., LM-K) are provided for evaluating the word sub-sequence.

3. (Previously presented) A speech dialogue system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plurality of different speech models (8) contains at least one theme-specific speech model (LM-1, ..., LM-K) to which a database (DB-1, ..., DB-M) with respective theme-specific data material is assigned, which material is used for determining the semantic information contained in the word sub-sequence.

4. (Currently amended) A method of extracting a significant word sub-sequence from a recognition result produced by a speech recognition unit (3) of a speech dialogue system (1), in which the word sub-sequence is evaluated by each of a plurality of different speech models (8) in a speech understanding unit (4) of a speech dialogue system (1), wherein selected ones of the plurality of speech models being provided with information (9) specifically related to the corresponding speech model.